

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
 - selectively removing at least one character from a text of a program title to create an abbreviated program title, the abbreviated program title retaining an essential meaning of the program title; and
 - displaying the abbreviated program title in a program title field of an onscreen program guide, the program title field capable of displaying a specified number of characters.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein selectively removing at least one character includes:
 - a) parsing the text of the program title;
 - b) determining at least one nonessential, nonrelational word of the program title;
 - and
 - c) removing the nonessential, nonrelational word from the program title.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein selectively removing at least one character further includes:
 - d) determining at least one relational word of the program title; and
 - e) replacing the at least one relational word with a representative character.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein selectively removing at least one character further includes:
 - f) determining at least one essential word of the program title;
 - g) determine the number of characters necessary to display the at least one essential word; and

- h) abbreviating the at least one essential word if the number of characters necessary to display the at least one essential word is greater than the specified number of characters.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein selectively removing at least one character further includes:

- f) determining a plurality of essential words of the program title;
- g) determine the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words; and
- h) removing an essential word if the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words is greater than the specified number of characters.

6. The method of claim 2, wherein the at least one nonessential, nonrelational word comprises all of the words selected from the group consisting of adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, and articles.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein the at least one essential word comprises all of the words selected from the group consisting of subject, object nouns, and verbs.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein an essential word occurring most frequently in a database is removed.

9. A machine-readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method, the method comprising:

selectively removing at least one character from a text of a program title to create an abbreviated program title, the abbreviated program title retaining an essential meaning of the program title; and

displaying the abbreviated program title in a program title field of an onscreen program guide, the program title field capable of displaying a specified number of characters.

10. The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein selectively removing at least one character includes:

- a) parsing the text of the program title;
- b) determining at least one nonessential, nonrelational word of the program title;
and
- c) removing the nonessential, nonrelational word from the program title.

11. The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein selectively removing at least one character further includes:

- d) determining at least one relational word of the program title; and
- e) replacing the at least one relational word with a representative character.

12. The machine-readable medium of claim 11, wherein selectively removing at least one character further includes:

- f) determining at least one essential word of the program title;
- g) determine the number of characters necessary to display the at least one essential word; and
- h) abbreviating the at least one essential word if the number of characters necessary to display the at least one essential word is greater than the specified number of characters.

13. The machine-readable medium of claim 11, wherein selectively removing at least one character further includes:

- f) determining a plurality of essential words of the program title;

- g) determine the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words; and
- h) removing an essential word if the number of characters necessary to display the plurality of essential words is greater than the specified number of characters.

14. The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the at least one nonessential, nonrelational word comprises all of the words selected from the group consisting of adverbs, adjectives, prepositions, and articles.

15. The machine-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the at least one essential word comprises all of the words selected from the group consisting of subject, object nouns, and verbs.

16. The machine-readable medium of claim 13, wherein an essential word occurring most frequently in a database is removed.

17. An apparatus comprising:

- a memory;

- a program title stored within the memory;

- a program title abbreviation software stored within the memory;

- a processor to execute the program title abbreviation software such that an abbreviated program title is created, the abbreviated program title containing a specified number of characters, the abbreviated program title retaining an essential meaning of the program title; and

- a display device capable of displaying the specified number of characters.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the abbreviated program title is created by:
- a) parsing the text of the program title;
 - b) determining at least one nonessential, nonrelational word of the program title;
 - and
 - c) removing the nonessential, nonrelational word from the program title.
19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the abbreviated program title is created by:
- a) parsing the text of the program title;
 - b) determining at least one nonessential, nonrelational word of the program title;
 - c) removing the nonessential, nonrelational work from the program title;
 - d) determining at least one relational word of the program title; and
 - e) replacing the at least one relational word with a representative character.
20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the abbreviated program title is created by:
- a) parsing the text of the program title;
 - b) determining at least one nonessential, nonrelational word of the program title;
 - c) removing the nonessential, nonrelational work from the program title;
 - d) determining at least one relational word of the program title; and
 - e) replacing the at least one relational word with a representative character.
 - f) determining at least one essential word of the program title;
 - g) determine the number of characters necessary to display the at least one essential word; and
 - h) abbreviating the at least one essential word if the number of characters necessary to display the at least one essential word is greater than the specified number of characters.